

NEWS

MOUNT ST LAWRENCE: SIX-FIGURE SUM NEEDED FOR FULL RESTORATION OF MORTUARY CHAPEL

Historic city chapel set for glorious restoration



The mortuary chapel in Mount St Lawrence cemetery which has been unused for many years

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THE 159 year-old mortuary chapel in Mount Saint Lawrence is undergoing works to help restore it to its former glory.

Limerick City and County Council has entered into an agreement with Limerick Civic Trust to carry out conservation works to the chapel and to clean and repair old headstones, marking the graves of some of the estimated 70,000 people buried throughout the 18-acre site.

The primary place of burial in Limerick city since its opening in 1849, the management of the cemetery was transferred from the church to the Limerick City Council in 1979.

"Mount St. Lawrence Cemetery is the location of the final resting places of many of our citizens and therefore, it is only fitting

that every effort be made to maintain the site and its many thousands of graves," said Kieran Lehane, director of service, Limerick City and County Council.

Mr Lehane noted that there are a large number of headstones in need of repair in the cemetery. Works currently underway include the cleaning of headstones, removal of vegetation growth and cleaning around the ironwork of individual gravesites.

Mount St Lawrence Mortuary Chapel, which was built by the trustees of the cemetery in 1868-69, is also undergoing works. The current phase consists of removal of vegetation growth, repairs to the roof covering the apse, slating of apse roof, masonry works and pointing, cleaning out of gullies and drains.

The interior works include repairs to altar railing, paintwork. In addition, the council has received approval for a small grant for specific works to the chapel under the Built Heritage Jobs Leverage

Scheme, which is funded by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Mount St Lawrence Mortuary Chapel is regarded as one of Limerick city's most historically important buildings. It was designed by the English Catholic architect George Goldie, who also designed altars and other internal fittings for the Franciscan, Dominican and Redemptorist churches in Limerick. In addition to having a very ornate exterior, the Mortuary Chapel contains impressive mosaics.

The chapel was used for funeral or memorial services, to house remains overnight and for the burial of priests, 20 of whom are interred in its vault. Mass was celebrated there on a weekly basis until it was closed in the 1970s and the mortuary chapel has not been available for public access for a long number of years.

The conservation works are being carried out on a phased basis and it is expected that the complete conservation of the Mortuary Chapel will be carried out over a number of years. The council is currently considering possible future uses.

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Dominic's life celebrated by St John's

IT was a poignant moment for members of a city brass band, as they made a final surprise visit to one of their oldest and most respected members.

St John's Brass and Reed Band visited Dom Crofton, 87, in St Camillus's Hospital before his sad passing last week.

The band gave a recital of some well-known marches for Dom's family, and fellow patients, and made a presentation to a man who has been the band's bedrock over the past 15 years.

Conductor John Doyle recalled how Dom's face "lit up" when they brought his old bass drum in for him to join in.

"Dom showed that he had lost none of his drumming skills as he took up his old position with the band," he added.

Dom, who hailed from the Lower Carey's Road, was also an accomplished tuba player,



John Doyle, conductor, Sean Hartigan, Tony McCarthy, chairman, Martin Doyle, Aoife Doyle, Paedar Carberry, Harry Hockedy and Anthony Doyle make a presentation to Dominic Crofton, who has since sadly passed away.

er, and John recalled how he could play a whole march by tapping out a rhythm on a table.

Following the recital, Band chairman, Tony McCarthy, made a small presentation to

Dom to mark his time in the band.

"Dom was an absolute gentleman. He was always smiling. He absolutely loved the company in the band. He always had a bit of devilment. He

had a glint in his eye. If I was giving out to the band for playing something wrong, not to play it too fast or too slow, he would give you this big smile, and your argument was gone immediately," he said.

Evanna puts out call to Limerick schools

HARRY Potter star Evanna Lynch, whose father hails from Limerick, has called on local schools to enter the Student Theatre Awards.

Ms Lynch launched the awards which were set up by Bord Gáis Energy to "recognise and reward participation in drama in schools across Ireland" and winning schools will share in a prize fund of up to €10,000.

The awards are open to primary school students from 3rd to 6th class, and secondary school students at all levels.

This year's awards have been expanded and will feature 11 categories including best performance in a leading role, best director, best musical, best costumes and best set design.

"I think it's really impor-

tant that creative talent is supported from a young age and these awards will give students across Ireland the chance to be recognised for all their hard work," said Evanna, who starred as Luna Lovegood in the Potter series and whose father hails from Murroe.

"As a young actress, I first became interested in acting at school and I would have loved to have taken part in something like this when I was a student.

"I am really looking forward to judging the awards early next year and would like to wish everyone taking part in Limerick the very best of luck," she added.

Closing date for entries is January 12, 2015. To enter and for more details, see www.bgesta.ie.